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KATHLEEN WILLIS
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
77TH DISTRICT

September 18, 2018

RECEIVED

SEP 27 2018

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Ms. Courtney Avery
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Re: Support for project 17-029, DaVita Melrose Village Dialysis

Dear Ms. Avery:

The Illinois legislative district I represent includes the people of the Village of Melrose Park. It has come to my attention that the two local kidney dialysis centers in Melrose Park are soon to exceed their optimal capacity levels, so to help alleviate the problem, I encourage you to approve the Certificate of Need for DaVita Melrose Village Dialysis (project 17-029).

Compared to the rest of Illinois, a person living in Melrose Park has only half of the dialysis stations available per capita as other Illinoisans, meaning their access to quality, convenient care is disproportionately poor.

It's important to note that Melrose Park residents are over 70% Hispanic, and Hispanic Americans are one and half times more likely to have kidney failure compared to other Americans.

The number of people diagnosed with kidney disease has doubled during each of the last two decades. Although it can occur at any age, older Americans are at higher risk because they are living longer than did previous generations, thanks to advances in medicine and changes in lifestyle. Kidney disease is more prevalent in the senior population than in the general population. As the baby-boomers enter their 60s and 70s, the number of Americans with kidney disease is expected to increase significantly. More than one in three women living in the U.S. and one in five men will live to the age of 90, which further affects the incidence and prevalence of kidney disease.

I urge you to vote yes on DaVita Melrose Village Dialysis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathleen Willis".

State Rep. Kathleen Willis
77th District